

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/055 W

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R 231217Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 8846

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN PARTY LEADER OP KIM ANG ON THE NEED FOR A
CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

REF: PHNOM PENH 8830

1. WHILE SIRIK MATAK IS TAKING A STATESMANLIKE VIEW
OF THE IN TAM PROBLEM AND THE NEED TO MAKE THE HIGH
POLITICAL COUNCIL WORK, (REFTEL) THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF HIS
PARTY, OP KIM ANG, IS PUSHING AS HARD AS HE CAN FOR CHANGE.

2. OP KIM ANG TELLS US THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS INCAPABLE OF GOVERNING AND
MUST BE REPLACED IMMEDIATELY IF THE REPUBLIC IS TO
BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE A SERIOUS DEFENSE. HE POINTS TO
DEADLOCK OVER THE BUDGET, THE CLUMSY HANDLING OF
CONSCRIPTION, AND IN TAM'S ENDLESS HESITATIONS AS
SUPPORT FOR HIS THESIS.

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3. OP KIM ANG IS EQUALLY CRITICAL OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, WHICH HE ARGUES HAS BEEN ABLE TO REACH NO IMPORTANT DECISIONS SINCE ITS CREATION.

4. WHAT OP KIM ANG WANTS IS AN ENLARGED HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, TO INCLUDE THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THE HEADS OF PARTIES; A NEW "HOMOGENOUS" CABINET COMPOSED OF SOCIO-REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICANS; AND "MORE VIGOR IN ADMINISTERING THE COUNTRY".

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE LITTLE HEADWAY WITH THIS MANDARIN POLITICIAN, WHOSE IDEAS ARE CONSISTENT ENOUGH BUT WHO LACKS A SUFFICIENTLY STRONG POLITICAL BASE TO MAKE HIS HARD LINE POLICIES A CONCEIVABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT UNTIDY COALITION.
SWANK

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